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Enclosed herewith for filing is a patent application, as follows:

Inventor(s): Schaaf, David; White, Kerry; Lee, Ji-Bih; Shih, Angela
Title: CD-ROM Street Compiler And User Interface For Vehicle Navigation System

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- 3 pages Declaration/Power of Attorney(unsigned)
- ☐ Other: _____

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USER INTERFACE FOR SELECTING DESTINATIONS BY ADDRESS IN
A VEHICLE NAVIGATION SYSTEM

5 David T. Schaaf
Kerry M. White
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10 **Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a user interface for a vehicle navigation system, more particularly, to a user interface for identifying and displaying destination addresses.

15 **Description of the Related Art**

Vehicle navigation systems are well known, see e.g. Yamada et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,926,336; Link et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,270,937; and Ichikawa, U.S. Patent No. 20 5,410,485, all incorporated by reference. Such navigation systems generally perform two major functions. One function is to identify the optimum route from the present location to a desired destination, a process which is generally referred to as route 25 guidance. The other function is to display a map of both the present location and of the identified route. This display is usually in the form of a map displayed on a small screen installed in the vehicle.

As is well known, typically in such systems a 30 database is provided of the road network. This database

lists all of the roads for instance in one state or in some other fairly large geographical area. This representation of the road network is sometimes referred to as a digitized map.

5 The navigation apparatus of the type used in the U.S.A. displays guidance pictures during navigation. It detects the position of the vehicle, reads out map data corresponding to the vehicle position from a map data base such as a CD-ROM, displays, by using map data, an
10 enlarged diagram of an approached intersection or a branching point, which may exist in a guide route in a predetermined distance range from the present vehicle position, along with an arrow indicating a heading direction and performs speech guidance by designating
15 the heading direction.

 To perform its above mentioned functions, current navigation systems require a user to first identify the city name followed by the street base name. After the selection of the street name, the system displays a list
20 of all possible road types, suffixes or prefixes that in conjunction with the selected full street name constitute valid addresses. At this point the user must select a road type from the list, subsequent to which the user must enter the house number of his desired
25 destination. If the house number does not fall within a valid range of the house numbers for the selected street, the user must select another road type from the displayed list and repeat the process until the selected house number exists on the selected street.

The following example further illustrates this point:

Example 1

100 Main St
5 Los Angeles, CA

To select the above address, a user must first enter the city name "Torrance" and then enter the street base name "Main", after which the system perform a search of its
10 database and identifies and generates a list of all possible road types that in conjunction with the street name "Main" constitute valid addresses. Let's assume that the system identifies and displays the following three combinations of the valid road types and the
15 street base name "Main" for the city of "Torrance":

Main St
Main Pl
Main Ave

20

Let's assume that the user selects "Main Pl" from the above list. The user must now enter the house number "100" after which the system performs a search of its map database to identify the desired location. If house
25 number "100" does not exist in "Main Pl", the user must go back and select another road type for the street name "Main".

As is evident from the above examples, a disadvantage of many present navigation systems is that
30 they require a user to know the complete address of the

desired destination, including the road type ("Pl") and any prefix and/or any suffix associated with a street base name. Should a user fail to recall any component of an address, e.g. "St" of the above example 1, the user
5 must guess that component; this is likely to lead to inefficiency and inconvenience.

Therefore, a need has arisen for a navigation system that is more flexible and can aid a user to identify all the components of an address, e.g. the road
10 type and any prefix and/or a suffix associated with that address, more efficiently.

Summary

In accordance with the present invention, a vehicle
15 (or other) navigation system (i.e. mapping system) performs a search of its map database to identify and display a list of all addresses therein which contain address components in conformity with the user provided "city name", "street base name" and "house number", and
20 prompts the user to select an address from the displayed list. Alternatively, the system allows the user to enter only a "street base name" and a "house number", forms the combination therefrom, whereby the system finds all possible city names containing that combination and
25 subsequently generates and displays a list of the city names thus found. After the user selects a city name from the list, the system displays a second list containing all addresses in its database having components matching those entered/selected by the user

and prompts the user to select an address from the second list.

Advantageously, in accordance with the present invention, the vehicle navigation system provides a substantially reduced list of possible valid addresses by requiring the user to select the road type and any prefixes/suffixes associated with the user's desired address at the final stages of the address selection process.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 shows a flowchart which delineates the sequence of steps performed by the navigation system to help a user identify the desired destination.

Figs. 2A and 2B illustrate the sequence of screens displayed to help a user identify a desired destination as in Fig. 1.

Detailed Description

The names, numbers and other information, which in the aggregate conventionally constitute a street address, are hereafter referred to as address select components. In the discussion below it is understood that address select components conventionally include a house number, a street base name, a prefix which is a string of alphabetic character(s) preceding the street base name, a suffix which is a string of alphabetic character(s) succeeding the street base name, a road type and a city name.

Examples of the prefixes/suffixes recognized by the navigation system in accordance with the present invention, and which are of the type most commonly used in the United States are: "E", "N", "S", "W", "NE",
 5 "NW", "SE" and "SW".

Examples of the road types recognized by the navigation system and which are of the type most commonly used in the United States are: "St", "Ave", "Pl", "Blvd", "Rd" and "Dr". A street base name refers
 10 to the name of the street on which the desired destination (house, business, etc.) is located. For instance, the street base name of the following address is "Gramercy".

15 19145 Gramercy Pl
 Torrance, CA

In accordance with the present invention, the navigation system helps a user fully identify a desired
 20 address according to one of the following two sequences:

1. City Name
2. Street Base Name
3. House Number
4. Road type and Affix (prefix/suffix)

25 or

1. Street Base Name
2. House Number
3. City Name
4. Road type and Affix (prefix/suffix)

30

Fig. 1 shows a flowchart which delineates the sequence of steps performed by the navigation system to help a user identify the desired destination. In Fig. 1, the rectangular boxes designate system prompts or display stages and the diamond boxes designate decision points.

As can be seen from Fig. 1, the system, after a user activates the navigation system to find his destination, presents the user with an option to commence the address selection process, shown in the flowchart by decision point 10, by either entering a city name, path 12, or entering a street name, path 20. If the user knows the city name of his destination, the user chooses path 12 after which the system prompts the user to enter the "City Name", the "Street Base Name" and the "House Number" at steps 14, 16 and 18 respectively. Subsequently, at decision point 30, the system initiates a search of its conventional map database to identify all valid addresses therein that are an aggregation of the user provided "City Name", "Street Base Name" and "House Number" with the system known road types and road affixes. If the database search finds only one identifiable address, the system displays and selects that address and prompts the user to initiate the conventional route guidance to that address at step 34. If the database search finds more than one valid address, the system displays on its display screen a list of all fully identified addresses and prompts the user to select (using the keypad) an address from the list generated at step 32. Each address

listed in step 32 is fully identified and includes all the address select components, including a valid road type and any road affixes associated with that address. After the user selects an address at step 32, the system
5 moves to step 34, the operation of which is conventional and discussed earlier.

A user may not know or remember the city name of his desired destination. To accommodate such users, the system provides an alternative choice, path 20, at step
10 10 to help a user identify the name of his/her desired city. If path 20 is chosen, the user is prompted to enter the "Street Base Name" and the "House Number" at steps 22 and 24, respectively. At decision point 26, the system performs a search of its database to identify all
15 possible cities that include the user provided "Street Base Name" and "House Number". If the search identifies a plurality of city names in conformity with the above characteristics, the system displays a list of the city names and prompts the user to select a city name from
20 the list thus found at step 28. After the user's selection of a city name at step 28, the system enters step 30 to continue the address selection process, as described earlier. If the search conducted at step 26 finds only one identifiable city, the system
25 automatically selects that city and moves to step 30.

The following example further illustrates how the user interface, in accordance with the present invention, aids a user to identify an address. In this example, it is assumed that a user does not recall the
30 road type "Pl" of his desired destination which is:

19145 Gramercy Pl
Torrance CA

5 After the user presses the "menu" key located on the navigation system remote hand held unit, the system displays for the user conventionally a menu of options to help the user find his/her desired destination, as shown at stage 42 of Fig. 2A. The user selects the
10 option "Address", as designated by the highlighted area, from the displayed menu to initiate an address selection process. At stage 44, corresponding to decision point 10 in the flowchart of Fig. 1, the system prompts the user to choose either a city name or a street base name as
15 the starting point of the address selection process. The user responds by selecting the option "City Name", as is designated by the highlighted area.

At stage 46, corresponding to step 14 in the flowchart of Fig. 1, the "Select City Name" input screen appears
20 and the user selects letters from the keypad to enter the desired city name. Each time the user inputs an alphabetic character as a part of the desired city name, a list displaying cities with names containing those characters is updated in alphabetical order. The user
25 selects the city name "Torrance" from the updated list at stage 46, as shown by the highlighted area. At stage 48, corresponding to step 16 in the flowchart of Fig. 1, the "Input Street Name" input screen appears and the user selects letters from the keypad to enter the
30 desired street name. Each time the user inputs an

alphabetic character as a part of the desired street name, a list displaying streets with names containing those characters is updated in alphabetical order. This list only contains street base names, excluding any
5 affixes or road types. The user can scroll up or down the list provided by the system, from which the user selects the desired street base name "Gramercy", as is shown by the highlighted area at stage 48 of Fig. 2A. Referring to Fig. 2B, at stage 50, corresponding to step
10 18 in the flowchart of Fig. 1, the "Input Address Number" input screen appears and the user, using the keypad, enters the desired house number "100" and presses the keypad key "Done." The house number must fall in the displayed range.

15 With this information, (corresponding to decision point 30 in the flowchart of Fig. 1) the system initiates a search of its map database to identify all possible road affixes, and road types that, in combination with the city name "Torrance", the street
20 base name "Gramercy" and the house number "100", constitute valid addresses. At stage 52, corresponding to step 32 in the flowchart of Fig. 1, the system displays all such valid addresses from which the user selects his desired. As can be seen from stage 52, the
25 address select components responsible for distinguishing the three possible addresses in this example are the road types and the prefixes. At stage 54, the complete address has been identified and the user must press the "OK to PROCEED" key on the keypad to initiate the route
30 guidance process (corresponding to step 34 of the

flowchart in the Fig. 1) If, based on the user provided inputs, a search of the system database finds only one valid address, the system automatically selects and displays that address, highlights the "OK to PROCEED"

5 key, and prompts the user to initiate the thereafter conventional route guidance process to that address, as shown in stage 56 of the Fig. 2B, corresponding to step 34 in the flowchart of Fig 1.

Therefore, the user interface, in accordance with the
10 present invention, advantageously allows a user to identify the road type and the road affixes associated with his/her desired destination address at the final stage of the address selection process. The navigation system performs a much narrowed database search and
15 eliminates the number of iterations that a user must go through in order to fully identify his/her desired address.

The present invention is included in a computer software (code) operating on the microprocessor in the
20 system. The actual computer software code is not shown since such can easily be written in light of the present disclosure by one of ordinary skill in the art. The computer software can be written in a variety of computer languages.

25 This disclosure is illustrative and not limiting; further modification will be apparent to one skilled in the art in light of this disclosure and are intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.

30

We Claim

- 5 1. In a navigation system, a user interface for
identifying and displaying as a list those addresses in
a database having in common at least one user selected
address component, wherein each address component
identifies one of a city name, a house/business number,
10 a street base name, a road type, and a prefix or a
suffix associated with an address.
2. A user interface according to claim 1, wherein said
user selected address component is a street base name.
15
3. A user interface according to claim 1, wherein said
user selected address component is a house number.
4. A user interface according to claim 1, wherein said
20 user selected address components are a street base name
and a house number.
5. A user interface according to claim 4, wherein the
user interface generates and displays a list containing
25 the name of cities for which said street base name and
said house number are valid address components; further
comprising means for said user to select a city name
from said list.

6. A user interface according to claim 5, wherein if said street base name and said house number are valid address select components for only one city, the user interface displays and selects that city.

5

7. A user interface according to claim 1, wherein said user selected address components are a city name, a street base name and a house number.

10 8. A user interface according to claim 7, wherein said user interface generates and displays a list containing addresses for which said city name and said street base name and said house number are valid address components; further comprising means for said user to select an
15 address from said list.

9. A user interface according to claim 8, wherein if said city name and said street base name and said house number are valid address components of only one address,
20 the user interface displays and selects that address.

10. A user interface according to claim 6, wherein said user interface generates and displays a list containing addresses for which said system selected city name and
25 said user provided street base name and house number are valid address components; further comprising means for said user to select an address from said list.

11. A user interface according to claim 10, wherein if
30 said city name and said street base name and said house

number are valid address components of only one address, the user interface displays and selects that address.

12. A user interface according to claim 5, wherein said user interface generates and displays a list containing addresses for which said user selected city name and said user provided street base name and house number are valid address components; further comprising means for said user to select an address from said list.

10

13. A user interface according to claim 12, wherein if said city name and said street base name and said house number are valid address components of only one address, the user interface displays and selects that address.

15

14. A user interface according to claim 2, wherein upon a user entry into the navigation system of each character of a street base name, a list of all street base names containing those characters, in the sequence entered, is updated and displayed.

20

15. A user interface according to claim 7, wherein upon a user entry into the navigation system of each character of a city name, a list of all city names containing those characters, in the sequence entered, is updated and displayed.

25

16. A method of determining a desired address, comprising the steps of:

generating a list of addresses having in common at
least one user selected address component, wherein each
address component identifies one of a city name, a
house/business number, a street base name, a road type,
5 and a prefix or a suffix associated with an address; and
displaying said list for the user to choose an
address therefrom.

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5 USER INTERFACE FOR SELECTING DESTINATIONS BY ADDRESS IN
 A VEHICLE NAVIGATION SYSTEM

David T. Schaaf

Kerry M. White

Ji-Bih Lee

10 Angela Shih

ABSTRACT

15 A navigation system user interface identifies and
displays a list of all addresses which contain address
components in conformity with the user provided "city
name", "street base name" and "house number" and prompts
the user to choose an address from the list thus
provided. Alternatively, the interface generates a list
of all the city names which contain valid addresses in
20 conformity with the user provided "street base name" and
"house number". The system, subsequently, displays a
list of all possible addresses with components matching
those entered/selected by the user and prompts the user
to select an address from the list thus provided.

25

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below adjacent to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of subject matter (process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or an improvement thereof) which is claimed and for which a patent is sought by way of the application entitled CD-ROM Street Compiler And User Interface For Vehicle Navigation System

which (check) ☒ is attached hereto.

☐ and is amended by the Preliminary Amendment attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____

☐ and was amended on ____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed	Yes	No
N/A			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Provisional Application Number	Filing Date
N/A	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
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Inventor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

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Post Office Address:

Citizenship:

Full name of sole (or first joint) inventor: Angela Shih

Inventor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Residence:

Post Office Address:

Citizenship:

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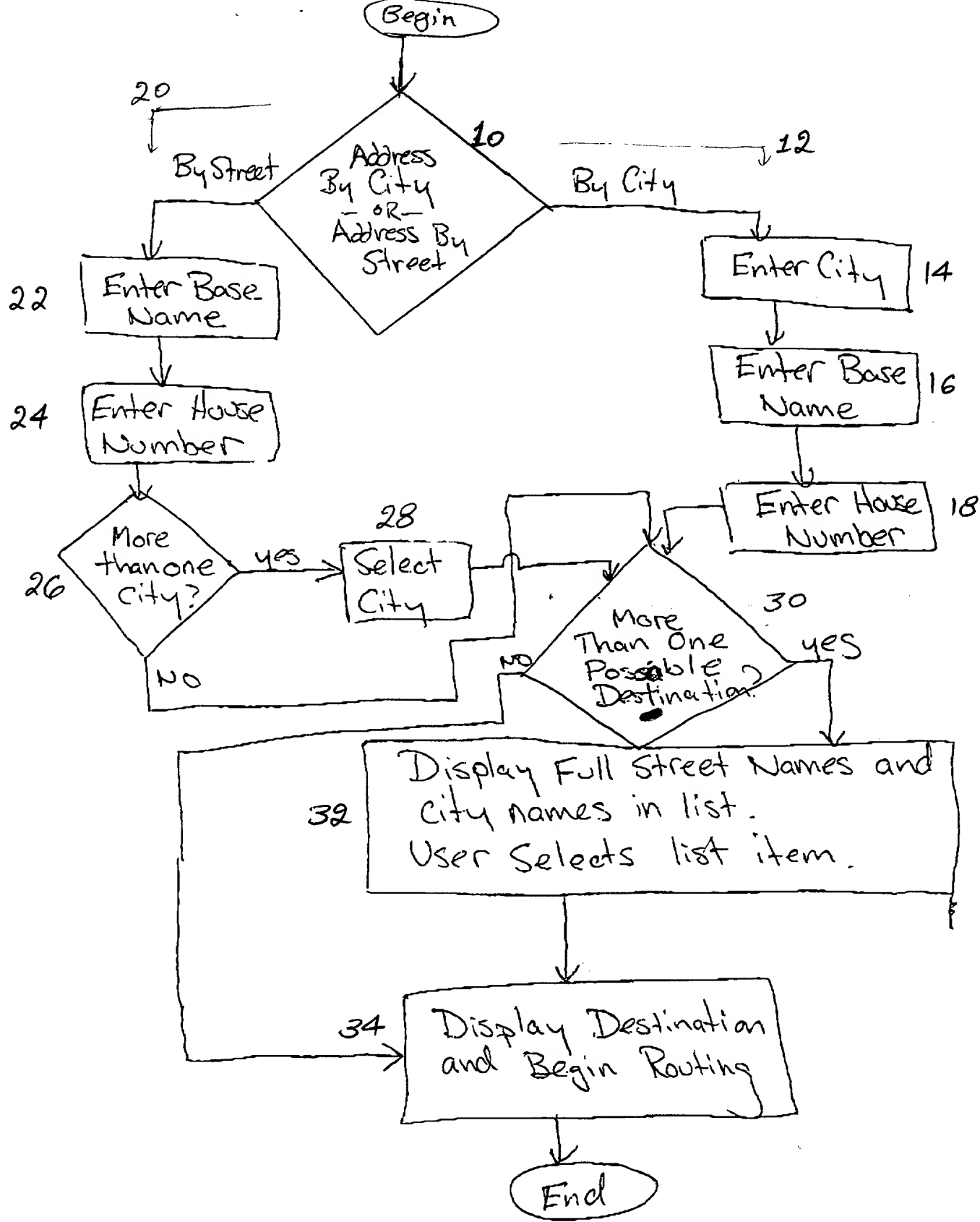


Fig. 1

Dest	Find Destination by:
<div>Address</div> <div>Intersection</div> <div>Point of Interest</div> <div>Map Cursor</div> <div>Recent Route</div> <div>Address Book</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Today's Plan</div>	

42



Dest	Find Address by:
<div>City Name</div> <div>Street Name</div>	

44



Dest	Select City Name																																										
<div>TO</div> <table border="1"> <tr><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td><td>E</td><td>F</td><td>G</td><td>H</td><td>I</td><td>J</td><td rowspan="2">Delete</td></tr> <tr><td>K</td><td>L</td><td>M</td><td>N</td><td>O</td><td>P</td><td>Q</td><td>R</td><td>S</td><td>T</td></tr> <tr><td>U</td><td>V</td><td>W</td><td>X</td><td>Y</td><td>Z</td><td>&</td><td>'</td><td>/</td><td>-</td><td rowspan="2">Space</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>0</td></tr> </table> <div>TOMALE, CA</div> <div>TOPANGA, CA</div> <div>TORRANCE, CA</div> <div>↓</div>		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Delete	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	&	'	/	-	Space	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
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U	V	W	X	Y	Z	&	'	/	-	Space																																	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0																																		

46



Dest	Input Street Name																																										
<div>G</div> <div>, TORRANCE, CA</div> <table border="1"> <tr><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>C</td><td>D</td><td>E</td><td>F</td><td>G</td><td>H</td><td>I</td><td>J</td><td rowspan="2">Delete</td></tr> <tr><td>K</td><td>L</td><td>M</td><td>N</td><td>O</td><td>P</td><td>Q</td><td>R</td><td>S</td><td>T</td></tr> <tr><td>U</td><td>V</td><td>W</td><td>X</td><td>Y</td><td>Z</td><td>&</td><td>'</td><td>/</td><td>-</td><td rowspan="2">Space</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>0</td></tr> </table> <div>G</div> <div>GABACHO</div> <div>GABARDA</div> <div>↓</div>		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Delete	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	&	'	/	-	Space	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
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U	V	W	X	Y	Z	&	'	/	-	Space																																	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0																																		

48



Fig. 2A

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↓

Dest	Select Street Name
G	
GABACHO	
GABARDA	
GABBERT	
GABBRO	
GABELI	
GABER	
GABILAN	

50

↓

Dest	Input Address Number
100	G
TORRANCE, CA	
RANGE 00000 - 00000	
A B C D E F G H I J	Delete
K L M N O P Q R S T	
U V W X Y Z / * / -	Done
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0	

52

↓

Dest	Select Address
100 G AVE	
TORRANCE, CA	
100 G PKY	
TORRANCE, CA	
100 G ST	
TORRANCE, CA	



54

↓

Dest	Confirm Destination
100 G AVE	
TORRANCE, CA	
BY Shortest Route METHOD	
OK to Proceed	
Save in Address Book	
Add to Today's Plan	

58

↓

Dest	Confirm Destination
100 G AVE	
TORRANCE, CA	
BY Shortest Route METHOD	
OK to Proceed	
Save in Address Book	
Add to Today's Plan	

56

Fig. 2B.